NUMB. CCCCLXXVI.

The SPECTATOR.

——*lucidus Ordo.* Hor.

Friday, September 5. 1712.

AMONG my Daily-Papers, which I bestow on the Publick, there are some which are written with Regularity and Method, and others that run out into Wildness of those Compositions, which go the Name of *Essays*. As for the first, I have a whole Scheme of the Discourse in my Mind, before I set Pen to Paper. In the other kind of Writing, it is sufficient that I have several Thoughts on a Subject, without troubling my self to range them in such order, that they may seem to grow out of one another, and be disposed under the proper Heads. *Seneca* and *Montaigne* are Patterns for Writing in this last Kind, as *Tully* and *Aristotle* excel in the other. When I read an Author of Genius, that writes without Method, I fancy my self in a Wood that abounds with a great many noble Objects, rising among one another in the greatest Confusion and Disorder. When I read a Methodical Discourse, I am in a regular Plantation, and can place my self in its several Centers, so as to take a View of all the Lines and Walks that are struck from them. You may ramble in the one a whole Day together, and every Moment discover something or other that is new to you, but when you have done you will have but a confused imperfect Notion of the Place; in the other, your Eye commands the whole Prospect, and gives you such an Idea of it, as is not easily worn out of the Memory.

Irregularity and want of Method are only supportable in Men of great Learning or Genius, who are often too full to be exact, and therefore chuse to throw down their Pearls in Heaps before the Reader, rather than be at the Pains of stringing them.

Method is of Advantage to a Work, both in respect to the Writer and the Reader. In regard to the first, it is a great help to his Invention. When a Man has plann'd his Discourse, he finds a great many Thoughts rising out of every Head, that do not offer themselves upon the general Survey of a Subject. His Thoughts are at the same time more intelligible, and better discover their Drift and Meaning, when they are placed in their proper Lights, and follow one another in a regular Series, than when they are thrown together without Order and Connexion. There is always an Obscurity in Confusion, and the same Sentence that wou'd have enlightened the Reader in one Part of a Discourse, perplexes him in another. For the same Reason likewise every Thought in a Methodical Discourse shews its self in its greatest Beauty, as the several Figures in a piece of Painting receive new Grace from their Disposition in the Picture. The Advantages of a Reader from a Methodical Discourse, are correspondent with those of the Writer. He comprehends every thing easily, takes it in with Pleasure, and retains it long.

Method

Method is not less requisite in ordinary Conversation, than in Writing, provided a Man would talk to make himself understood. I, who hear a Thousand Coffee-house Debates every Day, am very sensible of this want of Method in the Thoughts of my honest Countrymen. There is not one Dispute in Ten, which is managed in those Schools of Politicks, where, after the three first Sentences, the Question is not entirely lost. Our Disputants put me in mind of the Skuttle Fish, that when he is unable to extricate himself, blackens all the Water about him, till he becomes invisible. The Man who does not know how to methodize his Thoughts, has always, to borrow a Phrase from the Dispensary, *a barren Superfluity of Words*. The Fruit is lost amidst the Exuberance of Leaves.

Tom Puzzle is one of the most Eminent Immethodical Disputants of any that has fallen under my Observation. *Tom* has read enough to make him very Impertinent: His Knowledge is sufficient to raise Doubts, but not to clear them. It is pity that he has so much Learning, or that he has not a great deal more. With these Qualifications *Tom* sets up for a Free-thinker, finds a great many things to blame in the Constitution of his Country, and gives shrewd Intimations that he does not believe another World. In short, *Puzzle* is an Atheist as much as his Parts will give him leave. He has got about half a Dozen common-place Topicks, into which he never fails to turn the Conversation, whatever was the Occasion of it: Tho' the Matter in Debate be about *Doway* or *Denain*, it is ten to one but half his Discourse runs upon the Unreasonableness of Bigottry and Priest craft. This makes Mr. *Puzzle* the Admiration of all those who have less Sense than himself, and the Contempt of those who have more. There is none in Town whom *Tom* dreads so much as my Friend *Will Dry*. *Will*, who is acquainted with *Tom*'s Logick, when he finds him running off the Question, cuts him short, with a *What then? we allow all this to be true, but what is it to our present Purpose?* I have known *Tom* eloquent half an Hour together, and triumphing, as he thought, in the Superiority of the Argument, when he has been nonplus'd, on a sudden, by Mr. *Dry*'s desiring him to tell the Company, what it was that he endeavoured to prove. In short, *Dry* is a Man of a clear methodical Head, but few Words, and gains the same Advantages over *Puzzle*, that a small Body of regular Troops would gain over a numberless undisciplined Militia.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A good accustom'd Hosier's Shop to be Lett, [illegible] the Stock to be Sold, being the Goods of the late Mr. [illegible] Sandys Deceased, at the Golden Star over-against Katherine [illegible] in the Strand.

Mr. Burges, Druggist, at the Blue Anchor [illegible] Fleetstreet, has received a new Supply of Spa Water, fresh and good, certified as such by the Greffier of the Spa, and being taken up [illegible] the best Well there, can with the greater certainty recommend [illegible] N. B. He sells all sorts of fine Teas from Holland, and Spanish [illegible] by wholesale or retale.

A Regular Physician that has travelled and [illegible] as much of the Venereal Practice, both here and Abroad, as perhaps [illegible] one; thinks it may be of Service to inform the Publick, that he [illegible] discovered one Medicine (a Panacea) that never yet failed curing [illegible] inveterate Runnings or Ownings, after ill-cured Injuries, (where [illegible] Malignity is eradicated) that are looked upon incurable; as also Scr[illegible]al Effusions, and consuming Weepings of the Spermatick Vessels, [illegible] parts contiguous. It performs by corroborating and restoring the To[illegible] of the Parts, which having been debilitated, and lost their Springi[illegible] by overpurging, the use of hot attenuating Medicines, or other [illegible] upon Nature, is the general cause of those Weaknesses. Where [illegible] Weakness has not been of long standing one Pot of it completes [illegible] Cure; but where it has, it may require two, or at the most three; but then none will be disappointed, if they dare take the Word of a Stranger, who is yet a Man of Credit, and may at a convenient [illegible] son set his Name to this Advertisement, and inform the Publick [illegible] some farther Secret, which he has found out for the Cure of the other obstinate Venereal Maladies, that puzzle the Efforts of the great Physicians. This Panacea is as innocent as Bread, agreeable to the Taste, and requires no Confinement. He has left it to be disposed [illegible] at Mr. Lovel's at the Sign of the Patten and Perriwig over-against Gr[illegible] Suffolk-street near Charing-cross, at a Guinea a Pot, sealed up with plain and satisfactory Directions, whereby any one may know their Case, and whether they have any Malignity or not.

Just Published,

Religio Libertini; or, the Faith of a converted Atheist. Occasionally set forth, by Mr. Richard Burrage, who was lately convicted of Blasphemy, before the Rt. Hon. Sir Tho. Parker Lord Chief Justice of England. To which is prefix'd, A Narrative on of his Life, from his Birth to the time of his Sufferings; [illegible] Account of what pass'd on his Tryal at the Sessions-House in the Old-Baily; a Relation of the Cause of the Prosecution, evidence against him; with an Abjuration and Recantation which he [illegible] lickly made in the Chappel of Newgate, on Sunday the 6th July, 1712. impartially written with the Author's own [illegible] whilst under Confinement. Printed for Sam. Briscoe, and [illegible] John Graves, next White's Chocolate House in St. James's [illegible] and J. Morphew, near Stationer's Hall. Where may be had, [illegible] Paul Lorrain's Sermon preach'd in Newgate, July 6, 1712. against Atheism and Blasphemy, and on the Abjuration, Recantation and Conversion of the Author of this Book, from those erroneous Principles. Price 6 d.

This Day is Published,

An Essay towards a History of Dancing, in which the whole Art and its various Excellencies are in some Measure explain'd. Containing the several Sorts of Dancing, Antique and Modern, Serious, Scenical, Grotesque, &c. With the Use of it as an Exercise, Qualification, Diversion, &c.

Spartam quam nactus est, hanc orna.

Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over-against Catharine Street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.